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Published by Studio Mouse, an imprint of Trudy Corporation,
Norwalk, Connecticut.

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Dear Parents:

The journey of learning and discovery is so much more fun when taken alongside a Disney Princess. Let the princesses show the importance of hard work, determination and optimism in this charming book from our Happy Endings series. This series is thoughtfully and lovingly designed to provide your child with the building blocks of learning he or she needs to grow and succeed.

First Edition 2005 10 9 8 7 Printed in China





THE POWER OF LOVE









Once upon a time there lived a beautiful young woman named Belle.

Belle lived in a village with her father, Maurice, an inventor.

But Belle wasn't sure she fit in there. The people in the village thought she was odd because she loved to read books about far-off places and magical adventures.

One day Belle's father rode off on his horse, Phillipe, to bring one of his new inventions to a fair.





On the way, Belle's father got lost in a forest and found himself at an old, crumbling castle. He entered slowly, not knowing that a terrible beast lived inside.

The Beast was once a handsome prince, but he was so unkind that an enchantment was cast upon him, turning him into a frightening creature.



As soon as Maurice entered the castle, Phillipe galloped back to the village. When Belle heard Phillipe whinny and saw he was alone, she knew something was very wrong. Belle was terrified.

"Phillipe, we must find Papa! You have to take me to him!"

Phillipe brought Belle right

to the dark castle.





As Belle approached the castle, she spotted her father's hat on the ground. She cautiously stepped into the çastle.

In her worst nightmares, she could never have imagined a place so horrible, and she had never felt so frightened.

She had to find her father and get him out of there.



Belle heard a hoarse voice coming from down the corridor.

"Belle? Is that you?" asked the voice.

"Papa! Where are you?" she called.

Maurice peered out from a slot in one of the doors.

"Here I am," he said.

Belle ran to her father, who was tired, cold and sick.

"We have to get you out of there," she said.







"Oh, Papa. Who's done this to you?" she asked.

Suddenly, Belle turned around and saw an enormous shadow hovering over her.

"I've come for my father," Belle said to the stranger.

"He shouldn't have trespassed," shouted the Beast.



Belle knew that she could not let her father stay in the castle.

"Please let him go! Take me instead," she pleaded.

The Beast wanted Belle to stay. If he learned to love another and earned her love in return, the spell would be broken and he would become a prince again.

"You must promise to stay here forever," declared the Beast.





Belle still had only seen the Beast's shadow.

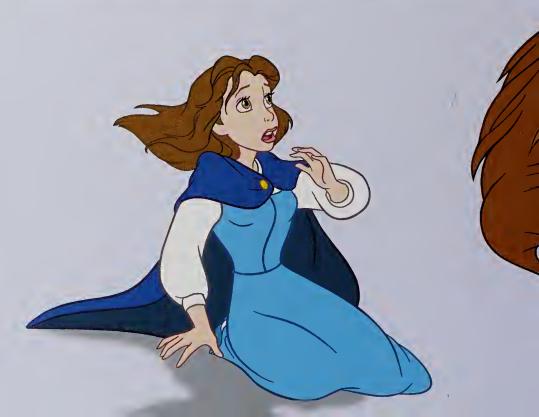
"Come into the light," Belle said. The Beast was ashamed for this beautiful girl to see his face, but slowly, he walked into the light.





Belle gasped when she saw the Beast. She was afraid of the Beast, but she loved her father dearly, and there was only one thing she could do.

"You have my word. I will stay here if you let my father go," said Belle.







Later that night, Belle left the room she was staying in and went downstairs.

She was told to stay away from the West Wing of the castle, but her curiosity got the best of her. She entered a room that was like nothing she'd ever seen before. Dust and filth covered everything, and vines grew on old broken furniture and torn paintings.

"Is this where he lives?" wondered Belle.

Just then, the Beast appeared, jumping in front of her, and roared, "Get out! Get out!"

Belle ran out of the castle! She found Phillipe exactly where she had left him. She hopped on his back and shouted, "Take me home!"

The forest was dark and full of branches, and Phillipe had to slow down to a trot.





Belle's heart began to race as a pack of angry wolves surrounded them.

Belle was shaking with fear, but she tried hard to be brave so she could return home.

Belle fell from the horse. Just as the wolves were ready to pounce on her, she felt someone's presence. It was the Beast.



The Beast fought the wolves. They slashed at him with their claws, but in the end, the wolves were no match for the Beast.

Belle was free to go home, but she couldn't leave the wounded

Beast in the forest after he had saved her life. She helped the Beast back to

the castle.



Over the next few months, Belle and the Beast became friends. At first, Belle thought the Beast was horrid and cruel, but now she realized that he was gentle and kind. And the Beast was having fun for the first time in his life. He was falling in love with Belle.



One evening, as Belle and the Beast danced, the Beast realized he could no longer keep Belle prisoner. She was free to go.

Belle visited her father, who was ill. The Beast was heartbroken that she was gone.





The villagers learned that a beast lived in the castle. Convinced he was dangerous, they rushed to the castle to attack him.

Belle tried to stop the angry mob, but she was too late. The Beast was hurt badly. Belle knelt before him.

"I love you," she said tearfully. Suddenly, the Beast became human again.





Belle stared in amazement at the handsome Prince.

"Belle, it's me," said the Beast. She kissed him joyfully. Belle had read many books with fairy-tale endings, but she never thought she would experience such happiness. Now, as she looked into the Prince's eyes, she knew that she would live happily ever after.









THE POWER OF LOVE

Belle is a prisoner of the Beast in an old dark castle. Will she ever find love and happiness?

It's a multimedia experience!
The lessons presented in this
Learn-Aloud book from the
Happy Endings series are
enhanced by a read-along
CD and musical fun!



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9781590694350

2016-01-13 8:43

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PLN: MC0450909SM